

Dear Laurel School Community,

I am extremely proud to announce that Laurel School's 'Differentiating Instruction: Academic Growth of All' Program will be honored by the San Mateo County School Boards Association, on May 11<sup>th</sup> with the J. Russell Kent Exemplary Program Award. As the instructional leaders of Laurel School, Linda Creighton and myself have had the pleasure of working and studying, side by side, with our teachers throughout this five year journey to incorporate respectful and responsive teaching strategies within each of our classrooms' learning environments. The greatest reward for staff has been seeing our students continue to be the beneficiaries of all our efforts, experiencing academic success everyday. I want to thank the Menlo Park Atherton Education Foundation for providing the necessary funding through their Teacher Excellence Program to support our teachers' professional development in differentiated instruction over the years. As I leave the Laurel School community in June, I leave knowing that the best professional staff, offering the best practices for bringing success for all students will continue on, way into the future. What a wonderful thought for a retiring principal.

I have attached a copy of the 'Differentiating Instruction: Academic Growth for All' program description, submitted to the San Mateo County School Boards Association. I hope you enjoy reading and experiencing our journey as well.

Sincerely,  
Nancy K. Hendry  
Principal, Laurel School